

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 02766

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GE, CH
SUBJECT: THE GDR TAKES UP CHINA ISSUES AGAIN

REF: (A) 77 BERLIN 8128; (B) MOSCOW 7408

1. THE GDR HAS ONCE AGAIN RENEWED ITS CRITICISM OF
THE PRC AND MADE CLEAR THAT THERE CAN BE NO IMPROVEMENT
IN GDR-PRC RELATIONS UNTIL THE PRC GIVES UP ITS
HOSTILE POLICY TOWARD THE USSR. ON APRIL 17, NEUES
DEUTSCHLAND (ND) CARRIED AN EDITORIAL STAUNCHLY
SUPPORTING RECENT SOVIET INITIATIVES VIS-A-VIS THE
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PRC AIMED AT "ENDING THE ABNORMAL STATE OF BILATERAL
RELATIONS." THE EDITORIAL NOTES REGRETFULLY THAT
THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP HAS REJECTED THESE OVERTURES,
AND HAS CONTINUED ITS HOSTILE POLICY TOWARD THE
SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES
BY NOTING THAT THE GDR HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT THAT THE CURRENT POLICY OF THE CHINESE

LEADERSHIP IS INJURIOUS TO THE BASIC INTERESTS OF THE GDR. NORMAL RELATIONS OF THE PRC TOWARD THE USSR AND TOWARD ALL SOCIALIST STATES WOULD HAVE A POSITIVE CONSEQUENCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS OF THE GDR WITH THE PRC, THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES.

2. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL OTHER RECENT SIGNS OF EAST GERMAN DISPLEASURE AT THE PRC. THE PRESS HAS REPRINTED SEVERAL SOVIET ARTICLES ON CHINESE-SOVIET RELATIONS AS WELL AS THE TEXT OF A NOTE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF MONGOLIA TO THE PRC TO THE EFFECT THAT CHINA HAS REJECTED MONGOLIAN EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS.

3. THE NEW CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR, CHEN TUNG, PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS ON MARCH 27. HE WAS RECEIVED BY HORST SINDERMANN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE, RATHER THAN HONECKER AS IS NORMALLY THE CASE. AS REPORTED IN THE OFFICIAL PRESS, THE TWO SIDES "EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND THE PRC AS WELL AS THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN BOTH PEOPLES MIGHT FURTHER DEVELOP FOR THE BENEFIT OF PEACE AND SOCIAL PROGRESS." AS A FORMULA USED TO DESCRIBE THE STATE OF RELATIONS, THIS IS ABOUT AS COOL AS IS EVER USED. ESSENTIALLY THE SAME LANGUAGE WAS EMPLOYED BY THE GDR FOR THE PRC NATIONAL DAY

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MESSAGE ON MARCH 8, 1978.

4. WE HAVE HEARD THAT ON THE DAY PRIOR TO THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS, THE CHINESE WERE TOLD THAT HONECKER WAS ON VACATION AND, FOR THIS REASON, COULD NOT RECEIVE CHEN TUNG. HOWEVER, HONECKER RECEIVED THE FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SOVIET COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, TICKONOV, IN BERLIN THE DAY FOLLOWING THE ACCREDITATION. THE PRC AMBASSADOR REPORTEDLY CONSIDERED THIS AN UNFRIENDLY ACT. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT HONECKER WAS INVOLVED IN NO PUBLIC ACTIVITIES FROM MARCH 13 UNTIL MARCH 28 AND MAY VERY WELL HAVE BEEN ON LEAVE.

5. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SOME NORMAL BILATERAL DEALINGS CONTINUE. ON JANUARY 19 THE DEPUTY MINISTERS OF TRADE OF THE GDR AND THE PRC SIGNED, IN EAST BERLIN, A TRADE AND PAYMENTS AGREEMENT FOR 1978 WHICH PROVIDES FOR AN INCREASE OF TRADE IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. THE GDR IS TO PROVIDE TRUCKS, DIESEL ENGINES, MACHINE TOOLS AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS. THE PRC WILL SUPPLY NON-FERROUS METALS, VEGETABLE AND

ANIMAL RAW MATERIALS, RICE AND COTTON TEXTILES.

6. COMMENT: GDR POLICY TOWARD THE PRC AS
REFLECTED IN THE EDITORIAL AND PRESS TREATMENT REMAINS
CONSTANT: THERE CAN BE NO IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL
RELATIONS UNTIL RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE
SOVIET UNION IMPROVE AND ALL EFFORTS BY THE PRC TO
SPLIT OFF THE GDR AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN
ALLIES OF THE USSR WILL BE REJECTED. END COMMENT.
BOLEN

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